

CONCENTRATE ON CHRIST

Matthew 26.1-3

THE PLOT TO KILL JESUS

The Jewish leaders, after being put in their place by Jesus, now plot to kill Him. But not during the Passover, as there will be so many out of town visitors, many would be supporters.

Jesus told His disciples that this would be happening. This was about six days before His crucifixion.

THE ANOINTING OF JESUS

Matthew 26.6-13 // John 12.1-8

Bethany is a village about two miles east of Jerusalem. Jesus would stay here often, and here he is at a man named Simon's house. Sisters and brother, Mary, Martha, and Lazarus (whom Jesus had just raised from the dead) also live in Bethany, and are present at this meal. Mary pours out 300 denarii worth of perfume on Jesus. Judas confronts her, but Jesus rebukes him.

Concentration and Diffusion

C.H. Spurgeon describes this scene using the words "concentration" and "diffusion." Mary was 100% concentrated on Jesus, with no regard of what Judas or others would think. Additionally, her worship *itself* was concentrated, meaning not watered down.

The result of this kind of worship? It was diffused throughout the whole house. But the order is important. Too often, we try to go and fix, help, and change, without ourselves first being enamored and in love with Christ, filled with His power.

CENTER, NOT FIRST

True worship will result in the spreading of the aroma of Christ.

Jesus makes the point that we will always have the poor, as well as other needs, but we need to make Him the center. He does *not* mean to neglect the poor, but rather to make sure our priority is set. We should not have Him as *first* on our list of things to do, but the *center* of *all that we do*.

**Artificial flowers look like the real thing,
but they lack the aroma.**

-C.H. Spurgeon

**I have held many things in my hands and I have lost them all;
but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess.**

-Martin Luther

NOTES:

Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

ARE YOU NEW HERE?

WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information. Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. Serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! **Fill out a connection card** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

GIVING

Gospel-centered generosity is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 5th grade**. Visit our website to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum. For questions about KOM email **Katie McGinty** at katie@lifemission.tv

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Our **6th - 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and classmates for the rest of service.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **9th - 12th graders** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. Our **High School Ministry meets on Thursday Nights @7PM at Casey & Amy Barnes Home in San Marcos**. For directions and/or questions about our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at casey@lifemission.tv.

VISION: WHY DO WE EXIST?

We want to see God's glory known among the nations, to the least, last, and lost.

MISSION: WHAT DO WE NEED TO DO?

We need to make disciples who make disciples locally and globally, who are saved, equipped, and sent by the Gospel.

STRATEGY: HOW WILL WE DO IT?

By teaching people how to be rooted in the Gospel of God's glory through the Word of God, Prayer, and Gospel Community.

CONTACT US:

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Twitter: @YourLifeMission
[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read through **Matthew 26:1-13**. What stood out to you the most from these verses or the message on Sunday? _____

Focusing on the context of Christ's statement in **Matthew 26:2**, skim through the previous two chapters. Why do you think Christ wanted to end his discourse with his disciples with the prediction of his crucifixion? What is he trying to tell them? Read **Matthew 16:24**. _____

In **Matthew 26:2-5**, Christ predicts his crucifixion in the contexts of Passover. Read **Exodus 12:3-14**, **1 Corinthians 5:7-8** and **Revelation 5:6-14**. What is the importance of the Passover in connection with Christ's crucifixion? Who were the "chief priests and the elders" who were discussing killing Jesus and why is their position ironic in the contexts of this Scripture. _____

Read **verses 6-9**. Was your first thought in reading the disciples' comments to agree (or maybe just sympathize a little bit) with their reaction? Didn't Jesus just tell them in **Matthew 25:35-40** that we should help care for the poor? How do you reconcile what Jesus is telling us in these two passages? _____

Do you ever catch yourself focusing on the act of worship rather than the object of worship? Read **Luke 10:38-42**. What was Mary's heart in that passage? _____

Why do you think the disciples reacted the way they did? Do you think the disciples, who spent much of their time with Christ, began to take for granted their communion with Jesus? (For a comparison, read **John 1:29 and 49**). _____

Thinking about your acts of worship, is your goal to do enough to feel pretty good about it? Do you give, serve, pray, read Scripture, and go to church to "check it off" for the week? Or are you earnestly pressing in to fall deeper in love with your Lord? Is your worship concentrated, both in its focus as well as in its totality? Or is watered down, or divided with other objects? Read through **Psalms 145:1-7**. _____

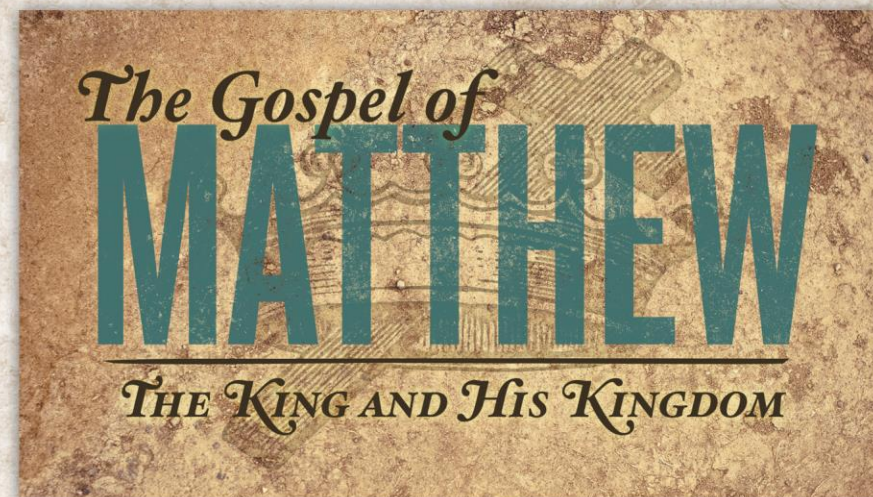
We are commanded to be generous and hospitable, to worship and meet regularly with believers, to pray, and to be in God's Word. But none of those things are the goal. This is why the start of our **P.R.A.Y.** model is "Preach." Spend some time in prayer this week, preaching to yourself, reminding yourself of the object of your acts of worship, focusing on God himself, reading some Psalms, and repenting of viewing your acts of service or outward obedience as "good enough" to get by. Be prepared to discuss in your community groups how you've been challenged in your times of prayer.



LIFE MISSION
C H U R C H

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Making Disciples Who Make Disciples Locally and Globally,
Who are Saved, Equipped, and Sent by the Gospel.



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Matthew 26.1-3 // February 21, 2016

SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025



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